

Recorded water levels in this bulletin are derived from a representative network of water level gages on each lake (see cover map). Providers of these data are the National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Marine Environmental Data Service, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. Historic and projected lake levels are derived by the Detroit District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada, under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

This bulletin is produced monthly as a public service. Tables of possible storm-induced rises at key locations on the Great Lakes are available on request. The Corps also publishes the "Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths," twice monthly, which provides a forecast of depths in the connecting rivers between the Great Lakes and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River. These publications can be obtained free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, or by calling (313) 226-6441. Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication(s). All of these publications can be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/glhh>.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology April 2010

For the sixth consecutive month, precipitation over the Great Lakes basin was below average. During April, the Lake Superior basin and Lake Ontario basin received significantly below average precipitation. Over the last 12 months, precipitation on all of the lakes has been below average. The net supply of water to Lake Superior and Lake Michigan-Huron was well below average in April. The Lake Erie basin received its monthly average water supply while the Lake Ontario basin received well below average water supply. The tables below list April precipitation and water supply information for the entire Great Lakes basin.

A comparison of April monthly mean water levels to long-term (1918-2008) averages show that all of the Great Lakes were below average. Lake Superior was 7 inches below average and Lake Michigan-Huron was 11 inches below average. Lakes St. Clair, Erie, and Ontario were 6, 5 and 9 inches below average, respectively.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)								
BASIN	April				12-Month Comparison			
	2010	Average (1900-2006)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-2006)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	1.07	1.99	-0.92	54	22.24	30.45	-8.21	73
Michigan-Huron	1.98	2.59	-0.61	76	27.47	32.30	-4.83	85
Erie	2.92	3.16	-0.24	92	31.94	35.28	-3.34	91
Ontario	1.20	2.90	-1.70	41	32.01	35.65	-3.64	90
Great Lakes	1.77	2.53	-0.76	70	27.45	32.53	-5.08	84

LAKE	April WATER SUPPLIES ² (cfs)		April OUTFLOW ³ (cfs)	
	2010 ¹	Average ⁵ (1900-1999)	2009 ¹	Average ⁴ (1900-1999)
Superior	35,000	148,000	60,000	69,000
Michigan-Huron	128,000	284,000	169,000	182,000
Erie	66,000	66,000	205,000	203,000
Ontario	33,000	93,000	242,000	250,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.

¹ Estimated

² Negative water supply denotes evaporation from lake exceeded runoff from local basin.

³ Does not include diversions.

⁴ Niagara and St Lawrence rivers average outflows are based on period of record 1900-1989 and 1900-2003, respectively

⁵ Lakes Erie and Ontario average water supplies based on 1900-1989